

REMARKS

Prior to entry of the present amendment, claims 1-15 were pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 11-15 are canceled above. Claims 1 and 3 are amended above. Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are now pending in the present application. No new matter is added by the claim amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

The applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicates at page 6, section 14 that claim 3 would be allowable if written in independent form. Independent claim 1 is amended above to include the limitations of former claim 3. Entry and allowance of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2 and 4-10 dependent thereon, are respectfully requested.

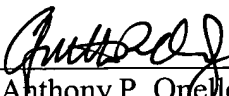
Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Conti (United States Patent Number 6,816,071). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Conti in view of Brake, *et al.* (United States Publication Number 2003/0103156). Since rejected independent claim 1 is amended to be dependent on allowable claim 3, it is believed that the rejections of independent claim 1, and dependent claims 2 and 4-10 thereon, are no longer applicable. Removal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, and 4-10 are respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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